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## Part I (Genesis 2,4-4,26) The Toledoth of the World

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# The Numerical Features of the Book of Genesis

## A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [Introduction](#) to the Project

### Part I, Genesis 2,4-4,26 The Toledoth of the World

#### Verses, Words, Letters, the Name YHWH, and the Compositional Structure

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum w	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	Gen 2,4	11+	50+	1	11		 <b>2,4-25 The Creation of Human Beings</b>
2	Gen 2,5	23=34(2x17)	80=130	2	34		The text opens with <b>34</b> (2x17) words, and <b>130</b>
3	Gen 2,6	9	30		43		(5x26) letters (2,4-5), with <b>51</b> (3x17) words in
4	Gen 2,7	16+	62	3	59		3,22-24, and <b>104</b> (6x26) in 4,17-24.
5	Gen 2,8	12+	41	4	71		No less than 21 of the 22 verses (95%) and 284 of
6	Gen 2,9	19+	71	5	90		the 293 words (97%) are governed by multiples
7	Gen 2,10	11+	45		101		of <b>17</b> and <b>26</b> .
8	Gen 2,11	12+	40		113		In terms of content, it divides into <b>7</b> paragraphs,
9	Gen 2,12	8=78(3x26)	30		121		with the 'Fall'-passage (§ 4 3,1-7) at the centre.
10	Gen 2,13	10+	34		131		<a href="#">§ 1 2,4-6 The earth is ready to be inhabited</a>
11	Gen 2,14	12+	49		143		
12	Gen 2,15	10+	42	6	153		<a href="#">§ 2 2,7-18 God creates a male who has to till and</a>
13	Gen 2,16	11+	38	7	164		<a href="#">guard the Garden of Eden God had planted</a>
14	Gen 2,17	13+	45		177		
15	Gen 2,18	12=68(4x17)	45	8	189		
16	Gen 2,19	28+	93	9	217		<a href="#">§ 3 2,19-24 God makes a female partner for him</a>
17	Gen 2,20	15+	60		232		
18	Gen 2,21	13+	56	10	245		
19	Gen 2,22	13+	46	11	258		
20	Gen 2,23	15+	57		273		
21	Gen 2,24	13+	43		286		The <b>286</b> (11x26) words finalize this Section.
22	Gen 2,25	7=104(4x26)	34		293		V 25 functions as a cliffhanger.
23	Gen 3,1	22+	75	12	315		 <b>3,1-24 Why God banished Adam and Eve</b>
24	Gen 3,2	8+	28		323		<b>from the Garden of Eden</b>
25	Gen 3,3	15+	53		338		<a href="#">§ 4 3,1-7 They have trespassed against God's law</a>
26	Gen 3,4	7=52(2x26)	25		345		<a href="#">and now realize that they are naked</a>
27	Gen 3,5	14+	59		359		
28	Gen 3,6	21=34(2x17)	84		380		This passage has 100 words.
29	Gen 3,7	13	55		393		
30	Gen 3,8	18+	73	13-14	411		<a href="#">§ 5 3,8-16 God sentences the snake and Eve</a>
31	Gen 3,9	8+	31	15	419		
32	Gen 3,10	10+	38		429		This paragraph is totally governed by multiples of
33	Gen 3,11	15=51(3x17)	53		444		<b>17</b> and <b>26</b> .
34	Gen 3,12	12+	42		456		
35	Gen 3,13	12+	50	16	468		
36	Gen 3,14	23+	81	17	491		
37	Gen 3,15	15+	61		506	S	
38	Gen 3,16	16=78(3x26)	63		522	S	
39	Gen 3,17	23	92		545		<a href="#">§ 6 3,17-21 God sentences Adam and makes</a>
40	Gen 3,18	8	30		553		<a href="#">clothes for the man and his wife</a>
41	Gen 3,19	17	56		570		A life in toil and sweat is stressed by <b>17</b> words!
42	Gen 3,20	11	33		581		
43	Gen 3,21	8	37	18	589	P	

44	Gen 3,22	22+	79	19	611		§ 7 3,22-24 God prevents them from eating of
45	Gen 3,23	11+	42	20	622		the tree of life and banishes them from Eden
46	Gen 3,24	18=51(3x17)	67		640	S	Highlighted by 51 (3x17) words!
46	2,4-3,24	640	2398	20x	640		
47	Gen 4,1	14	49	21	654		III 4,1-16 The Story of Cain and Abel
48	Gen 4,2	14	46		668		
49	Gen 4,3	9	36	22	677		
50	Gen 4,4	13	51	23	690		
51	Gen 4,5	11	39		701		
52	Gen 4,6	10+	34	24	711		This section of the dialogue between God and Cain
53	Gen 4,7	15+	56		726		is emphasized by having 52 (2x26) words.
54	Gen 4,8	14+	54		740		
55	Gen 4,9	13=52(2x26)	46	25	753		
56	Gen 4,10	10	36		763		
57	Gen 4,11	14	47		777		
58	Gen 4,12	13	38		790		
59	Gen 4,13	7+	26	26	797		The end of the Cain-and- Abel story is
60	Gen 4,14	17+	65		814		emphasized by having 51 (3x17) words.
61	Gen 4,15	18+	64	27-28	832		
62	Gen 4,16	9=51(3x17)	34	29	841		
16	4,1-16	201	2536	9x	201		The story is concluded by 51 (3x17) words.
63	Gen 4,17	17+	58		858		IV 4,17-26 Cain's Children and Grandchildren
64	Gen 4,18	16+	65		874		
65	Gen 4,19	11+	36		885		The entire passage is emphasized by having
66	Gen 4,20	10+	32		895		104 (4x26) words.
67	Gen 4,21	10+	34		905		
68	Gen 4,22	16+	55		921		
69	Gen 4,23	17+	69		938		
70	Gen 4,24	7=104	28		945		
8	4,17-24	104(4x26)	377	0	104		The 104 (4x26) words finalize this passage.
71	Gen 4,25	22	66		967		The birth of Seth who substitutes Abel
72	Gen 4,26	14	45	30	981	P	The birth of Enosh and the beginning of Yahwism
16	4,17-26	140	488	0	140		
26	4,1-26	341	1209	10x	341		
72	2,4-4,26	981	3607	30x	981		

**Observation 1** The Toledoth of the World (2,4-4,26) divides into four sections, which happen to coincide with the chapter division:

Section I 2,4-25 The Creation of Human Beings: the beginning of history

Section II 3,1-24 Why God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden **inside the Garden**.

Section III 4,1-16 The Story of Cain and Abel

Section IV 4,17-26 Cain's Children and Grandchildren **outside the Garden**.

**Observation 2** As in the Prologue, the greater part of the first Toledoth is governed by the divine name numbers in order to signify the presence of God in the events described in the text. Here, 57 of the 72 verses (79%) and 774 of the 981 words (79%) are governed by **17** and **26** and their multiples. The **72** verses represent the numerical value of the word תולדות: 22+6+12+4+6+22=72.

Section I (2,4-25) has a narrative (4-15) with **153** (9x17) words, and ends with **104** (4x26) in 19-25.

Section II (3,1-24) begins with **52** (2x26) words (vs 1-4) and ends with **51** (3x17) in vs 22-24.

Section III (4,1-16) ends with **51** (3x17) words

Section IV 4,17-24 (Cain's offspring) + 25-26 (the birth of Seth) have **104** (4x26) + 36 words.

	God	Snake	Humans	Narrative
2,4-15				153 (9x17)
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100				

11 וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הֵנִיד לָךְ כִּי עִירָם אֶתָּה הַמֶּן-הַעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִךָ לִבְלֹתִי אֲכַל-מִמֶּנּוּ אֲכַלְתָּ:	IV 1+14=15		1+9=10	
12 וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הִנֵּה נָתַתָּה לִּי מִן-הָעֵץ וְאֲכַל:			2+10=12	
13 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאִשָּׁה מַה-זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ וּתְאֹמַר הָאִשָּׁה הִנֵּחַשׁ הִשְׁיֵאֲנִי וְאֲכַל:	V 4+3=7			
14 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל-הַנָּחַשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת אֲרוּרָה אַתָּה מִכָּל-הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִכָּל-חַיַּת הָשָׂדֶה עַל-נִחְנָךְ תֵּלֵךְ וְעָפָר תֹּאכַל כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ:	VI 5+33=38		2+3=5	
15 וְאִיבָהּ אִשִּׁית בֵּינֶךָ וְבִין הָאִשָּׁה וְבִין זָרַעָהּ וְבִין זָרַעָהּ הוּא יִשׁוּפֶךָ רֹאשׁ וְאַתָּה תִּשׁוּפֶנּוּ עָקֶב:				
16 אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה אָמַר הֲרֵבָה אֲרֵבָה עֲצֹבוֹנֶךָ וְתִרְוֹנֶךָ בְּעֶצֶב תֵּלְדִי בָנִים וְאֶל-אִשְׁךָ תִּשְׁוָקְתִּיךָ וְהוּא יִמְשַׁלְּךָ:	VII 3+13=16			
17 וּלְאָדָם אָמַר כִּי-שָׁמַעְתָּ לְקוֹל אִשְׁתְּךָ וְנֹאכַל מִן-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לֵאמֹר לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ	VIII 2+46=48			
אֲרוּרָה הָאָדָמָה בְּעִבּוּרָהּ בְּעֶצֶב וְהָאֲכָלָהּ כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיהָ:				
18 וְקוֹץ וְדִרְבֹּר תַּצְמִיחַ לָךְ וְאֲכַלְתָּ אֶת-עֵשֶׂב הָשָׂדֶה:				
19 בְּזַעַת אִפְיָהּ תֹאכַל לֶחֶם עַד שׁוֹבָה אֶל-הָאָדָמָה כִּי מִמֶּנָּה לִקְחַתָּ כִּי-עָפָר אַתָּה וְאֶל-עָפָר תָּשׁוּב:				
20 וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ חַוָּה כִּי הִוא הֵיחָה אִם כָּל-חַי:				
21 וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאָדָם וּלְאִשְׁתּוֹ כְּתֻנּוֹת עוֹר וַיַּלְבִּשֵׁם:				3,20-21 19
22 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאֶחָד מִמֶּנּוּ לְדַעַת טוֹב וְרָע וְעָתָה הוּא-יִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וְלָקַח גַּם מֵעֵץ הַחַיִּים וְאֲכַל וְחַי לְעֹלָם:	IX 3+19=22			
23 וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִגֹּן-עֵדֶן לְעִבְדָּה אֶת-הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִשָּׁם:				3,23-24 29
24 וַיִּגְרֹשׁ אֶת-הָאָדָם וַיִּשָּׁכַח מִקֶּדֶם לְגֹן-עֵדֶן אֶת-הַכְּרִבִּים וְאֵת לֶחֶט הַחֲרִיב הַמִּתְהַפֶּכֶת לְשֹׁמֵר אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים:	Total: 34+156=190 (2x17+6x26)	Total: 7+26=33	Total: 11+54=65	Total: 352 (32x11)

### Observation 3 Sections I-II, 2,4-3,24, have the following significant numerical features:

The narrative section at the beginning (2,4-15) is made up of **153 (9x17)** words.

The narrative section in 3,6-8 is made up of **52 (2x26)** words.

The divine speeches have **34 (2x17)** words in the introductions and **156 (6x26)** in the speeches.

All speeches taken together have **52 (2x26)** words in the introductions (**34+7+11=52**).

Divine Speech VIII in 3,17-19 (the punishment assigned to Adam) has exactly **170 (10x17)** letters.

The words spoken by the snake: **9+17=26**. The key-word **הֵנָּה**, 'the garden', occurs **7x** in 2,4-3,24.

The total number of words in the remaining narrative sections amount to **352 (32x11)**.

### Sections III and IV: The Words in the Dialogues and the Remaining Narrative

	God	Eve 1+4=5	Cain	Narrative 9
4,1 וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת-חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת-קַיִן וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת-יְהוָה:				
2 וַתִּסָּף לְלֶדֶת אֶת-אָחִיו אֶת-הָבֶל וַיְהִי-הֶבֶל רֹעֵה צֹאן וְקַיִן הָיָה עֹבֵד אֲדָמָה:				Vs 2-5
3 וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים וַיָּבֵא קַיִן מִפְּרִי הָאָדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוָה:				47
4 וְהֶבֶל הֵבִיא גַם-הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמִחִלְבֵּתוֹ וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶל-הֶבֶל וְאֶל-מִנְחָתוֹ:				
5 וְאֶל-קַיִן וְאֶל-מִנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחַר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְּלוּ פָּנָיו:				
6 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-קַיִן לָמָּה תִּרְחַק לָךְ וְלָמָּה נָפְלוּ פָנֶיךָ:	X 4+21=25			
7 הֲלוֹא אִם-תֵּיטִיב שְׂאֵת וְאִם לֹא תֵיטִיב לִפְתּוֹחַ חַטָּאת רֹבֵץ וְאִלֶּיךָ תִּשְׁוָקְתוֹ וְאַתָּה תִּמְשַׁל-בּוֹ:				
8* וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל-הֶבֶל אָחִיו גִּלְכֵּה בְשָׂדֶה וַיְהִי בִּהְיוֹתָם בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּקָּם קַיִן אֶל-הֶבֶל אָחִיו וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ:			5+0=5	V 8b 9

9 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-קַיִן אֵי תֵבֵל <sup>4</sup> אֶחָיו <sup>4</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הֲשֹׁמֵר <sup>5</sup> אֶחָיו <sup>5</sup> אָנֹכִי: 10 וַיֹּאמֶר מֶה עָשִׂיתָ קוֹל דְּמִי <sup>6</sup> אֶחָיו <sup>6</sup> צִעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן-הָאֲדָמָה: 11 וְעַתָּה אָרוּר אַתָּה מִן-הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר פָּצְתָה אֶת-פִּיהָ לְקַחַת אֶת-דְּמִי <sup>7</sup> אֶחָיו <sup>7</sup> מִיָּדְךָ: 12 כִּי תִשָּׁבֵד אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה לֹא-תִסַּף תִּתֶּכֶתֶת לָךְ גֶּע וְגֵד תִּהְיֶה בָאָרֶץ: 13 וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל-יְהוָה גְּדוֹל עוֹנִי מִנְּשָׂא: 14 הֵן גִּרַּשְׁתָּ אֹתִי הַיּוֹם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּמִפְּנֵי אֶסְתֵּר וְהָיִיתִי גֵע וְגֵד בָּאָרֶץ וְהָיָה כָל-מֹצֵא יִהְיֶנִּי: 15 וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יְהוָה לִבְנֵי כָל-הָרֶג קַיִן שְׁבַע־עֲשָׂר יָמִים וַיֵּשֶׁם יְהוָה לְקַיִן אוֹת לִבְלֹתֶי הַפּוֹת-אֹתוֹ כָּל-מֹצֵא: 16 וַיֵּצֵא קַיִן מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּשֶׁב בָּאָרֶץ-גִּדֹד קִדְמַת-עֵדֶן: 17 וַיֵּרֶע קַיִן אֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתֵּהָר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת-חֲנוֹךְ וַיְהִי בְנָה עֵיר וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הָעִיר כֶּשֶׁם בְּנוֹ חֲנוֹךְ: 18 וַיּוֹלֵד לְחֲנוֹךְ אֶת-עֵיֶד וַעֲיֶד יָלַד אֶת-מְחוֹיָאֵל וּמְחוֹיָאֵל יָלַד אֶת-מִתְוִשָּׁאֵל וּמִתְוִשָּׁאֵל יָלַד אֶת-לָמֶךְ: 19 וַיִּקְחֵה-לוֹ לְמֶדֶ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים שֵׁם הָאֶחָת עֵדָה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית צִלָּה: 20 וַתֵּלֶד עֵדָה אֶת-יִבְלֵל הוּא הָיָה אֲבִי יֵשֶׁב אֱהֹל וּמִקְנָה: 21 וְשֵׁם אַחִיו יִבְלֵל הוּא הָיָה אֲבִי כָל-תִּפְשׁ כְּנוֹר וְעוֹגֵב: 22 וְצִלָּה גַם-הוּא יָלְדָה אֶת-תּוֹבֵל קַיִן לָשֵׁשׁ כָּל-חֹרֶשׁ נֹחַשׁ וּבִרְזֵל וְאַחֲוֹת תּוֹבֵל-קַיִן גַּעֲמָה: 23 וַיֹּאמֶר לְמֶדֶ לְנִשְׁיוֹ עֵדָה וְצִלָּה שָׁמַעַן קוֹלִי נָשִׂי לְמֶדֶ הַאֲזִנָּה אִמְרָתִי כִּי אִישׁ חֲרָגְתִּי לִפְעֵי וַיֵּלֶד לְחַבְרָתִי: 24 כִּי שְׁבַע־עֲשָׂר יָמִים קַיִן וְלָמֶדֶ שְׁבַע־עֶשְׂרֵה: 25 וַיֵּרֶע אָדָם עוֹד אֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמוֹ שֵׁת כִּי שֵׁת-לִי אֱלֹהִים זָרַע אַחֲרַי תַּחַת הֶבֶל כִּי הָרַגְוּ קַיִן: 26 וּלְשֵׁת גַּם-הוּא יָלַד בֶּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמוֹ אֲבֹשׁ אֵז הַיֹּהֲלֵל לְקִרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה: פ	4+3=7 4+3=7 3+6=9 Total: 12+ 66=78	1+5=6 1+36=37 4+20=24 Vs 15-16 18 Total: 83 Vs 17-22 80 Lamech: 3+21=24 Eve: 0+11 Total: 1+15=16 Total: 13+46=59	11 14 Total: 188
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**Observation 4** There is a text-critical problem in 4,8, where several Hebrew manuscripts have an interval after the five words referring to Cain's speaking to his brother: 'ויאמר קין אל-הבל אחיו', 'And Cain said to his brother Abel...' - obviously because the words he is supposed to speak are missing. The Samaritan Pentateuch, the LXX, Peshitta, and Vulgate do have these words: 'ולכה בשדה', 'Let us go out into the country', but we do not know whether they really had a Hebrew text containing these words or whether they supplied them of their own accord. In my opinion, it cannot be excluded that the author consciously withheld the words spoken by Cain – a sort of aposiopesis. However, for lack of evidence, also from the word-count, the problem remains unsolved.

**Observation 5** As in Sections I and II, special attention has been paid to the wording of the speeches in Section III (4,1-26). They are highlighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26** in the following way in order to stress their importance and to signify YHWH's presence in the dialogues: first, **78** (3x26) words have been used for the divine speeches (including the introductions), and second, **153** (9x17) words have been used for all speeches taken together (once again including the introductions): **78** + **16** + **59** = **153**. Taken separately, the introductions have **26** words (**12**+**1**+**13**=**26**). Moreover, Speeches IX-XIII have altogether **85** (5x17) words (19+21+3+36+6=**85**) and **286** (11x26) letters (65+76+9+116+20=**286**). I am indebted to Klaas Eikelenboom for this information. For an overview of the **26** divine speeches in Gen 1,1-6,8, see Observation 3 in [Part II \(5,1-6,8\)](#). The key-word אה, 'brother' (always with a suffix) occurs **7x** in 4,1-16 (marked in the text<sup>1-7</sup>).